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## **JOB SEARCH EXPERIENCE OF UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS WHO WERE STOOD DOWN) TASMANIA, JULY 1984**

### **INQUIRIES**

Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made by telephoning Hobart (002) 209 450 (Mr David Verrier). For other inquiries, including copies of publications, telephone the Information Officer on Hobart (002) 209 409.

The Tasmanian Office of the Bureau is located on the 3rd Floor of the Commonwealth Government Centre, 188 Collins Street, Hobart (G.P.O. Box 66A, Hobart, 7001).

### **MAIN FEATURES**

- In July 1984 17 per cent of Tasmanian unemployed persons (excluding those stood down) were looking for their first job. In the 15-19 age group the proportion looking for first job was 55 per cent.
- Seventeen per cent (or an estimated 3500) persons unemployed at July 1984 in Tasmania had spent under 13 weeks looking for work in the previous 12 months. Just over 40 per cent had looked for work for the full year.
- Average duration of the current period of unemployment for males who were unemployed at July 1984 was almost 67 weeks and for females almost 54 weeks.
- Just under 50 per cent of unemployed persons in Tasmania in July 1984 said they would move intra-state if offered a suitable job. Only 27 per cent of unemployed persons in Tasmania indicated a willingness to move interstate if offered a suitable job.

### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

#### **Introduction**

1. The statistics in this publication relate to unemployed persons, excluding those unemployed because of being stood down from their jobs. Additional questions have been asked in July for recent years relating to the unemployed's job search experience, difficulties encountered in finding work, steps taken to find work, etc. For July 1984 a set of state specific tables was produced from this survey. These are the basis for this publication.

2. Of the respondents to the labour force survey, those who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked additional questions. Respondents in this subset were asked about their job search experience, including their difficulties in finding work, steps taken to find work and whether they had had offers of employment, as well as about their educational attainment and the particulars of their last job, if any.

3. The scope of this supplementary survey was the same as that used for the labour force survey (described in full in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)) except that it was restricted to persons who were unemployed and excluded:

- (a) students boarding at school;
- (b) persons permanently unable to work;
- (c) some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc; and
- (d) persons who were waiting to be called back to a full-time or part-time job from which they had been stood down without pay for less than four weeks up to the end of the survey week (including the whole of the survey week) for reasons other than bad weather or plant breakdown.

4. Persons who were stood down (as defined in paragraph 3 above) were excluded from the scope of this supplementary survey as it is inappropriate to ask them about their job search experience.

#### **Definitions**

5. *Active steps taken to find work* comprise: writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; answering a newspaper advertisement for a job; checking factory or Commonwealth Employment Service noticeboards; being registered with the Commonwealth Employment Service; checking or registering with any other employment agency; advertising or tendering for work; and contacting friends or relatives.

6. For this survey *unemployed persons* are those aged 15 and over within the scope of the survey who were not employed during the survey week (i.e. the week immediately preceding that in which the interview took place), had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the survey week, and:
- (a) were available for work in the survey week, or would have been available except for temporary illness (i.e. lasting for less than four weeks to the end of the survey week); or
  - (b) were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the survey week and would have started in the survey week if the job had been available then.
7. The number of unemployed persons in this supplementary survey differs from that published in other ABS publications for Tasmania in that the latter includes persons who were *stood down*. However, persons who were *stood down* comprised less than 1.4 per cent of all unemployed persons at the Australian level.
8. *Persons with a post-school qualifications* were those who had left school and answered 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'
9. *Classification of post-school qualifications*. Respondents indicated which one of the following groups best described their highest qualification:
- (a) *Degree*: a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, a masters degree or a doctorate.
  - (b) *Trade, technical or other certificate*: completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.
  - (c) *Other*: completion of other post-secondary education, e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.
10. It is impracticable to obtain information relating to the whole of the previous twelve months which is strictly comparable with that obtained in the monthly labour force survey for which the reference period is one week. The definitions used in determining duration of current period of unemployment (see paragraph 11 following) depend on a detailed set of questions. The items *time spent looking for work* and *number of spells of looking for work during the previous twelve months* (see paragraphs 12 and 13 following) are based on a more limited set of questions. It is for this reason that the term *looking for work* is used for these items rather than the more rigidly defined term *unemployment*.
11. *Duration of current period of unemployment* is the period from the time the person began looking for work or was laid off to the end of the survey week. Thus the survey measures current (and continuing) periods of unemployment rather than completed spells. For persons who may have begun looking for work while still employed, the duration of current period of unemployment is defined as the period from the time the person last worked full-time for two weeks or more to the end of the survey week. Periods of unemployment are recorded in complete weeks and this results in a slight understatement of duration. *Average (mean) duration* is the duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group. *Median duration* is the duration which divides unemployed persons into two equal groups, one comprising persons whose duration of unemployment is above the median and the other, persons whose duration is below it.
12. *Time spent looking for work in the previous twelve months* is the total number of weeks the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job, including the weeks in the current period.
13. *The number of spells of looking for work in the previous twelve months* is the number of different periods, including the current period, during which the person reported having been out of work and looking for a job.
14. A *job* is any paid employment, full-time or part-time, lasting two weeks or more.

#### Reliability of the estimates

15. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:
- (a) *sampling error*: since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. More information on this topic is given in Appendix A.
  - (b) *non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

Standard errors of estimates are shown in Appendix A.

#### Related publications

16. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:
- Labour Force Statistics, Tasmania (6201.6)
  - The Labour Force, Australia (6203.0) — issued monthly (\$1.10, \$1.90 including postage)
  - Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons (excluding Persons who were Stood Down), Australia (6222.0)
  - Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Families, July 1983 (6224.0)
  - Labour Force Experience during the Year Ending February 1984, Australia (6206.)
  - Persons not in the Labour Force, Australia (including persons who wanted to work but who were not defined as unemployed) (6220.0) — conducted twice-yearly (March and September)
  - Employment, Underemployment and Unemployment 1966-1983, Australia (6246.0) (\$1.80, \$2.60 including postage)
  - Methods of Obtaining Jobs, Australia, July 1982 (6245.0)
17. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the Catalogue of Publications, Australia (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a Publications Advice (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- \* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See Technical note.
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available
- CES Commonwealth Employment Service.

18. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Deputy Commonwealth Statistician  
and  
Government Statistician of Tasmania

**TABLE 1. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS STOOD DOWN)  
JOB EXPERIENCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS,  
JULY 1984, TASMANIA**

('000)

	Age group (years)				Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	
Job experience —					
Looking for first job	3.0	*	*	*	3.5
Worked before	2.5	5.2	5.0	4.2	16.9
Total	5.4	5.5	5.1	4.4	20.4
Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months —					
One	4.6	4.7	4.3	4.1	17.7
Two	*	*	*	*	2.3
Three or more	*	*	—	*	*
Total	5.4	5.5	5.1	4.4	20.4
Weeks spent looking for work in the previous 12 months —					
Under 13	*	*	1.3	*	3.5
13 and under 26	*	1.2	*	*	3.2
26 and under 52	1.4	1.1	1.5	*	4.9
52	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.1	8.7
Total	5.4	5.5	5.1	4.4	20.4

**TABLE 2. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS STOOD DOWN):  
PROPORTION IN EACH AGE GROUP BY WEEKS SPENT LOOKING FOR WORK  
IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, JULY 1984, TASMANIA**

(per cent)

Weeks spent looking for work in the previous 12 months	Age group (years)				Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	
Under 13	*	*	24.9	*	17.1
13 and under 26	*	22.7	*	*	15.9
26 and under 52	25.5	20.9	29.1	*	24.2
52	43.4	40.7	39.6	48.5	42.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**TABLE 3. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS STOOD DOWN):  
DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, JULY 1984, TASMANIA**  
(000)

	Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)				
Age group (years)	Under 13	13 and under 26	26 and under 52	52 and over	Total
Males					
15-24	1.7	1.3	1.2	3.1	7.3
25-34	1.1	*	*	1.6	3.6
35 and over	*	*	*	1.3	2.6
Total	3.3	1.9	2.3	6.1	13.6
Females					
15-24	*	*	*	1.5	3.6
25-34	*	*	*	*	1.5
35 and over	*	*	*	*	1.7
Total	1.8	1.1	1.3	2.7	6.8
Persons					
15-24	2.7	1.8	1.8	4.6	10.9
25-34	1.5	*	*	2.0	5.1
35 and over	*	*	*	2.1	4.4
Total	5.1	3.0	3.5	8.7	20.4

**TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS STOOD DOWN):  
MEAN AND MEDIAN DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT,  
JULY 1984, TASMANIA**  
(weeks)

Age group (years)	Males		Females		Persons	
	Mean(a)	Median(b)	Mean(a)	Median(b)	Mean(a)	Median(b)
15-19	69.4	32.2	45.4	32.2	59.4	32.2
20-24	70.1	28.1	56.6	26.1	66.8	26.1
25-34	59.7	30.1	66.5	23.0	61.6	28.1
35 and over	67.1	52.0	51.3	40.2	60.8	43.2
All ages 15-64	66.6	34.1	53.6	32.0	62.3	32.2

(a) Mean (average) duration is obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of persons in that group.

(b) Median duration is the duration which divides the unemployed persons into two equal groups — one comprising persons with an unemployment duration above the median, the other whose duration is below it.

**NOTE:** Means and medians shown in Table 4 relate to unemployment periods which have **not** been completed, i.e. persons unemployed at the time of the survey.

**TABLE 5. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS STOOD DOWN):  
INTRA—STATE AND INTER-STATE MOBILITY, JULY 1984, TASMANIA**  
(‘000)

	Age group (years)				Total
	15-19	20-24	25-34	35 and over	
Intra-State Mobility —					
If offered a suitable job —					
Would move	3.1	3.4	2.0	1.3	9.9
Would not move	1.7	1.4	1.9	2.5	7.5
Move dependent on factors (a) and undecided	1.2		1.2	*	3.1
Total	5.4	5.5	5.1	4.4	20.4
Inter-State Mobility —					
If offered a suitable job —					
Would move	1.7	2.0	1.2	*	5.6
Would not move	3.0	2.5	3.2	3.1	11.8
Move dependent on factors (a) and undecided	1.7		*	*	3.0
Total	5.4	5.5	5.1	4.4	20.4

(a) Factors affecting dependency of move include: location, job conditions, personal and family situation.

**TABLE 6. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS STOOD DOWN) WHO  
WERE WAGE AND SALARY EARNERS IN THEIR LAST FULL-TIME JOB  
AND FINISHED WORK IN PREVIOUS TWO YEARS: DURATION OF LAST FULL-TIME  
JOB AND REASON LEFT LAST FULL-TIME JOB, JULY 1984, TASMANIA**  
(‘000)

	Age group (years)			Total
	15-24	25-34	35 and over	
Duration of last full-time job —				
Under 26 weeks	2.7	*	*	3.9
26 and under 52 weeks	1.1	*	*	1.9
1 year and over	1.5	*	1.3	3.7
Total	5.3	2.2	1.9	9.4
Reason left last full-time job —				
Laid off — No work available	1.5	*	*	2.8
Other reasons	1.3	*	*	2.1
Total laid-off	2.8	1.1	1.0	4.9
Job temporary/seasonal		1.5	*	1.8
Unsatisfactory work arrangements		1.0	*	1.2
Other		1.1	*	1.6
Total	5.3	2.2	1.9	9.4

**TABLE 7. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS (EXCLUDING PERSONS STOOD DOWN):  
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, JULY 1984, TASMANIA**  
(000)

Qualifications	Age group (years)			Total
	15-24	25-34	35 and over	
Males				
Had post-school qualifications	1.1	*	*	2.8
No post-school qualifications —				
Attended highest level of schooling	2.2	*	*	3.3
Did not attend highest level of schooling	3.7	2.0	1.5	7.2
Total no post-school qualifications	5.9	2.7	1.9	10.5
Total (a)	7.3	3.6	2.6	13.6
Females				
Had post-school qualifications	*	*	*	1.1
No post-school qualifications —				
Attended highest level of schooling	1.3	*	*	2.0
Did not attend highest level of schooling	1.6	*	*	3.3
Total no post-school qualifications	2.9	1.1	1.2	5.3
Total (a)	3.6	1.5	1.7	6.8
Persons				
Had post-school qualifications	1.4	1.3	1.3	3.9
No post-school qualifications —				
Attended highest level of schooling	3.5	*	*	5.3
Did not attend highest level of schooling	5.4	2.8	2.3	10.5
Total no post-school qualifications	8.8	3.8	3.1	15.8
Total (a)	10.9	5.1	4.4	20.4

(a) Includes persons still at school; not shown separately in table.

## APPENDIX A: STANDARD ERROR

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. The **sampling error** is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is, they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the surveys. One measure of the likely difference is given by the **standard error**, which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The standard error can also be expressed as a percentage of the estimate, and this is known as the **relative standard error**.

Standard Errors

Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate	Published estimate	Standard error of the estimate
1 000	250	4 500	480
1 300	280	5 000	500
1 500	300	6 000	540
1 800	330	10 000	660
2 000	340	20 000	860
2 500	380	50 000	1 150
3 000	410	100 000	1 450
3 500	440	200 000	1 750
4 000	460		

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